



Livestock and Seed Program Audit, Review, and Compliance Branch Quality System Audit Report

Applicant: Baystate Organic Certifiers (formerly NOFA-Mass Organic Certification)
Program : National Organic Program – 2004 Annual Update Report
Location(s): Desk Audit
Audit Date(s): June and September 3, 2004
Audit File Number: NP4170MA
Action Required: No
Auditor(s): Miguel A. Caceres
Contact & Title: Don Franczyk, Executive Director 978-297-4171
E-mail Address: dfranczyk@starpower.net

AUDIT ACTIVITIES

On several days in June and September 3, 2004, a representative of the USDA, AMS, LS Audit, Review, and Compliance (ARC) Branch conducted a review of the annual update documents submitted by Baystate Organic Certifiers, Winchendon, MA to verify continued compliance to the USDA, AMS 7 CFR Part 205, National Organic Program (NOP). Baystate Organic Certifiers was accredited by the NOP on April 29, 2002 for crops, livestock, wild-crops and handlers. The certifying agent was accredited as NOFA/Massachusetts Organic Certification but has changed its name to Baystate Organic Certifiers (BOC) as of April 1, 2004. BOC certifies to the NOP standards in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. The annual update report packet was received by the auditor on May 18, 2004 and the conflict of interest disclosure reports were received July 6, 2004.

The following information was submitted for the review:

1. **Certification Files:** 3 crops, 3 handlers, 3 livestock and 2 wild-crops.
2. **Annual Program Review:** NOFA/Mass Annual Program Review – report completed April 15, 2003. Also submitted *Adjustments to Baystate Organic Certifiers implemented after performance evaluations and Quality Audit Completed*.
3. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure Reports:** Submitted the conflict of interest disclosure reports for the Executive Director, Board of Director members, Application Reviewers, All Grower and Processor Committee members and inspectors.
4. **Current Certification Activities:** The *List of Certified Operations 4/23/04* had 123 operations listed.
5. **Current fee Schedule:** Fee Schedule submitted and met the requirements of 205.642.
6. **Changes to program:** The checklist submitted stated that the certifying agent changed its name from NOFA/Massachusetts Organic Certification to Baystate Organic Certifiers as of April 1, 2004. The parent organization remains Massachusetts Independent Certification, Incorporated.

Other submissions: Resumes provided for 2 new inspectors; qualifications provided for new reviewer; list of training conducted and attended; performance evaluations; and the completed ARC 1025C – Annual Update of NOP Accredited Certifying Agents Checklist.

FINDINGS

Documents and records reviewed for the annual update complied with NOP requirements. There were no non-compliances identified during the review. There were no outstanding non-compliances to address.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the review of the submitted annual update report the auditor recommends continued approval of Baystate Organic Certifiers as an accredited certifying agent under the National Organic Program.